

Agenda Item: 2.c

Meeting Date: November 4, 2025

MEMORANDUM

To: City Commission

Through: Jennifer K. Bramley, City Manager

From: Clay Watkins

Date: 2025-10-31

Subject: Pinellas County Regional Resource Recovery Facility (RRRF) Overview.

Presenter(s): Clayton "Clay" Watkins, P.E., Director of Utilities & Engineering; Janice "Nan" Bennett, P.E., Utilities Operations Manager; Brian Antonian, Wastewater Plant Manager; and Alejandro Gonzalez, P.E., Engineer II

Staff Recommendation: Commission to receive an overview of the proposed Pinellas County Regional Resource Recovery Facility (RRRF).

Strategic Themes: City Services and Environmental Resiliency & Sustainability

Boards & Committees: N / A

Budget Impact: N / A

Past Action: During the October 9th, 2025 Regular Meeting, the Commission authorized the City Manager, and delegated staff, to begin discussions relative to a future Interlocal Agreement between the County and the City of Dunedin, should the City decide to participate in Pinellas County's proposed Regional Resource Recovery Facility (RRRF).

Next Action: Continue discussions with Pinellas County.

Attachments:

- A. RRRF Presentation.pdf
- B. Tentative Project Schedule.pdf
- C. Pinellas County Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) - RRRF, (May 2025, Signed & Sealed 05-30-25).pdf

Background: Pinellas County is proposing the development of a Regional Resource Recovery Facility (RRRF) to provide a long-term, regional solution for wastewater biosolids management. The project is currently in Phase 2, which involves the development of bid specifications for the design, construction, and operation of

the facility. The County is seeking partner commitments from the neighboring municipalities within Pinellas County, including the City of Dunedin, to participate in the Regional Resource Recovery Facility (RRRF) through an Interlocal Agreement.

The intent of the Regional Resource Recovery Facility (RRRF) is to address pending Environment Protection Agency (EPA) and Florida Department Environmental Protection (FDEP) regulatory changes and water quality concerns. The project will explore several treatment technologies. The Regional Resource Recovery Facility (RRRF) will create beneficial, reusable, and marketable products from biosolids, such as renewable energy, fertilizers, and compost.

Pinellas County has provided preliminary estimates of total annual costs for various treatment scenarios. For Dunedin, the estimated monthly cost per household ranges from \$5.06 to \$8.13, depending upon the technology chosen. These estimates will be refined as the project progresses.

Participation in the Regional Resource Recovery Facility (RRRF) would require the City of Dunedin to enter into an Interlocal Agreement with Pinellas County. The terms of this agreement, including cost-sharing, capacity reservation, and other operational details, will be determined through negotiation.

Any future recommendation to enter into an Interlocal Agreement with Pinellas County for Dunedin to participate in their RRRF would require Commission approval.